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THE RETURN OF THE SINISTER SIX PART THREE OF THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

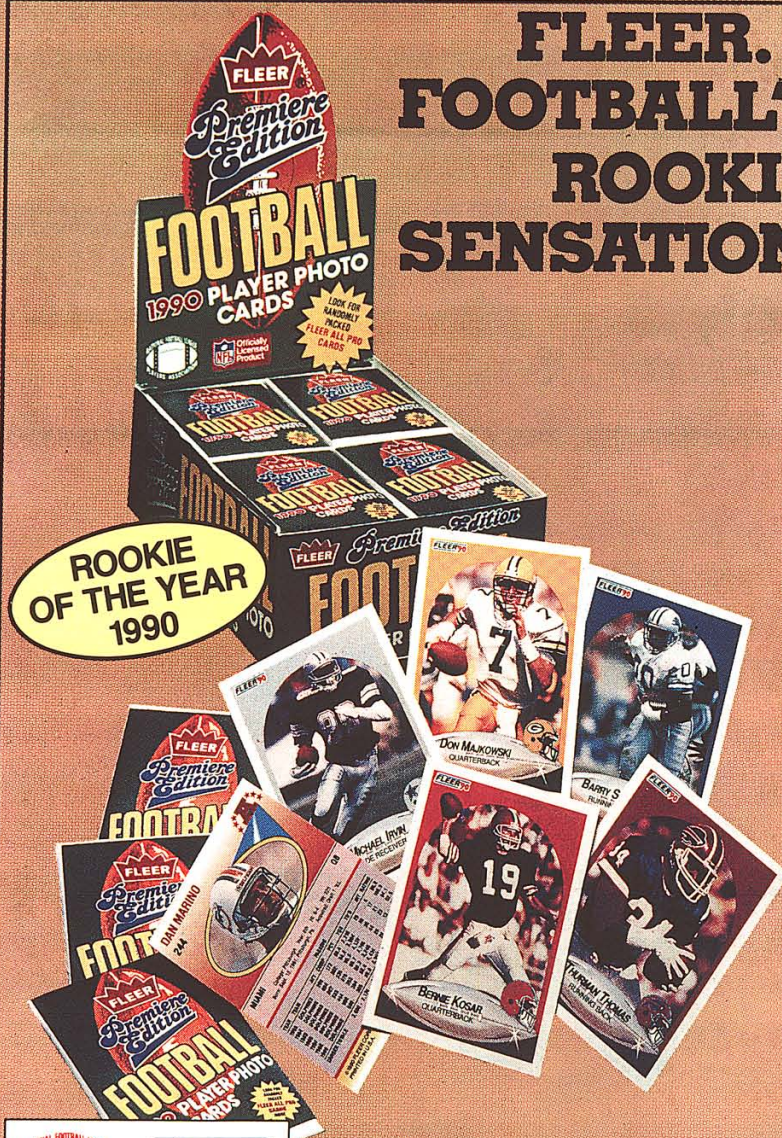
SOMEONE DIES!



ERIC LAPORTE BOB WYCEK

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FLEER... FOOTBALL'S ROOKIE SENSATION!

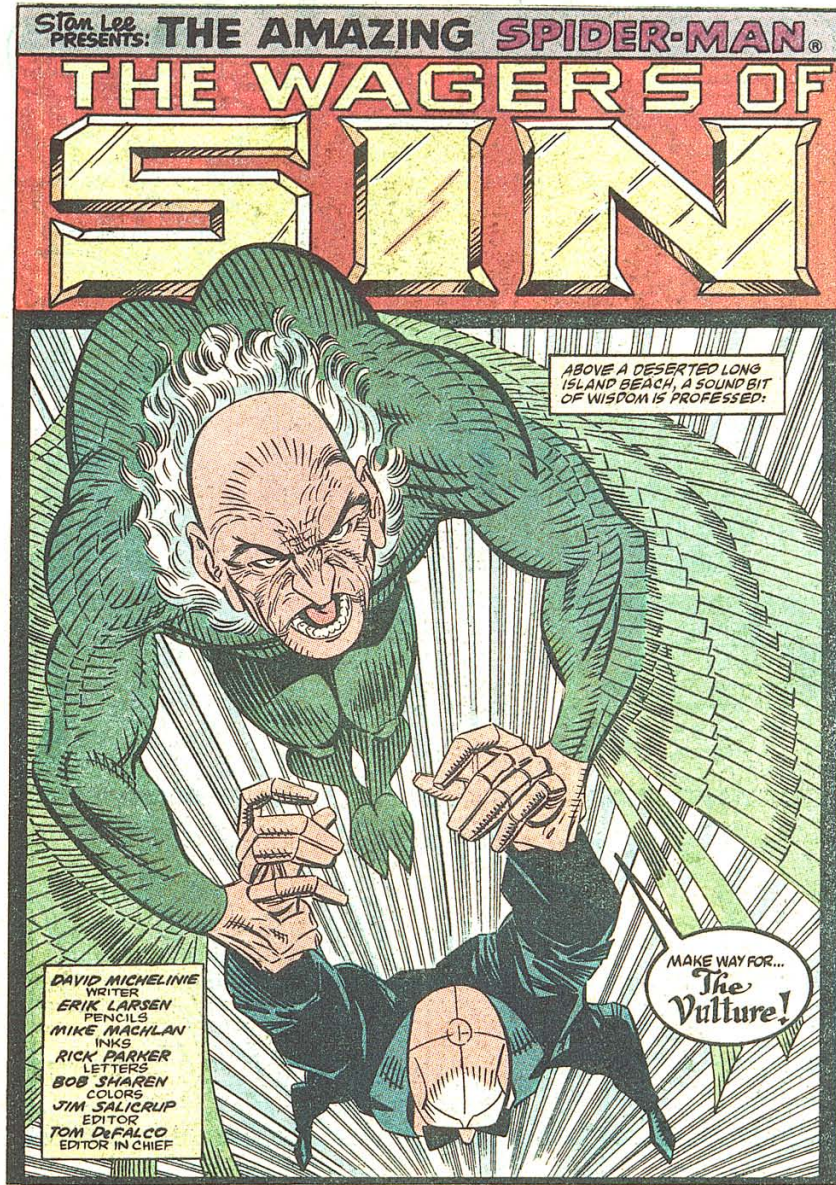


**ROOKIE
OF THE YEAR
1990**

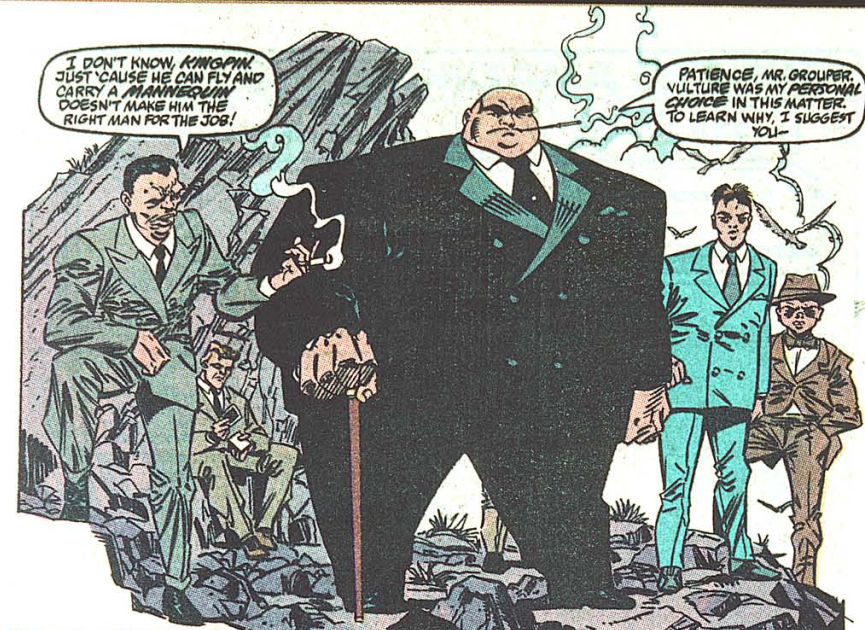


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I DON'T KNOW, KINGPIN. JUST 'CAUSE HE CAN FLY AND CARRY A **MANNESMAN** DOESN'T MAKE HIM THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB!

PATIENCE, MR. GROUPE. VULTURE WAS MY PERSONAL CHOICE IN THIS MATTER. TO LEARN WHY, I SUGGEST YOU--



--WATCH!--



SHHHH!

EEEP!

YOWK!



SPKASH!!

THAT TAKES CARE OF ONE DUMMY!



AND THERE'LL BE EVEN LESS LEFT OF RAYMOND TRASK!

EXCELLENT! MR. TRASK HAS BECOME A **NUISANCE** REFUSING TO ALLOW HIS ATLANTIC CITY CASINOS TO JOIN OUR ORGANIZATION. HIS **DEATH** SHOULD PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS OF THE ADVANTAGES OF COOPERATION.

WHY, IN TRUE CASINO SPIRIT, WE'RE EVEN TAKING **WAGERS** ON THE OUTCOME.



AND BY HIRING THE VULTURE AS OUR ASSASSIN, A POSITIVE RESOLUTION IS ASSURED!

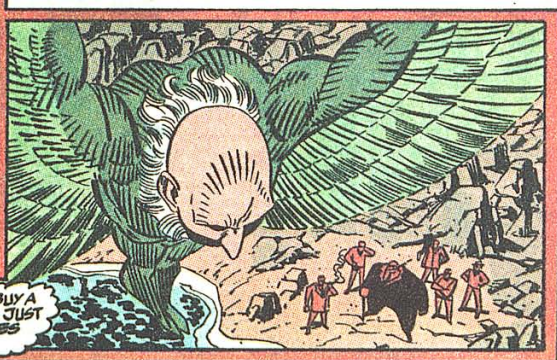
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE, MR. GROUPE?

BUT I'VE BET MY LAST DIME ON THIS HIT!

MAYBE.



MIGHT BE SMART TO BUY A LITTLE "INSURANCE." JUST IN CASE SOMETHING GOES **WRONG**.



THE 59TH STREET BRIDGE, NEAR QUEENS

SOMETHING'S WRONG!

HOW DID NATHAN GET ALL THAT CASH?

IT IS! IT IS HIM!

NATHAN'S IN LOVE WITH MY AUNT MAY!

BUT HE TRIED TO TAKE SOME OF HER MONEY ONCE, TO PAY OFF GAMBLING DEBTS. IF HE'S AT IT AGAIN...

I'D BETTER ASK HIM SOME QUESTIONS, AS--

* AS SHOWN IN ISSUE #334, --3.5.

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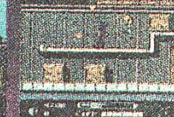
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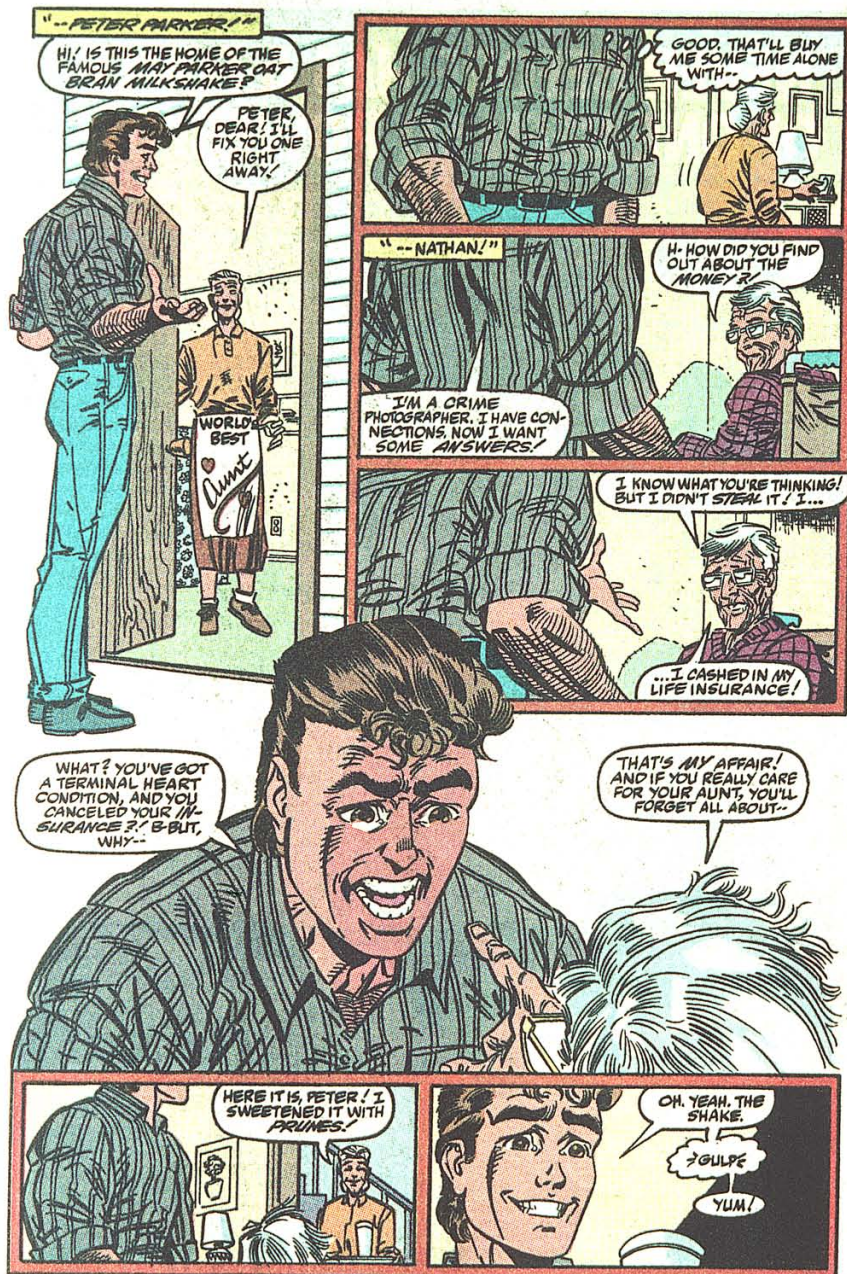
Rated 4 out of 5 for graphics and sound, challenge and theme/fun on the Power Player Meter!

Nintendo Power, March/April 1996

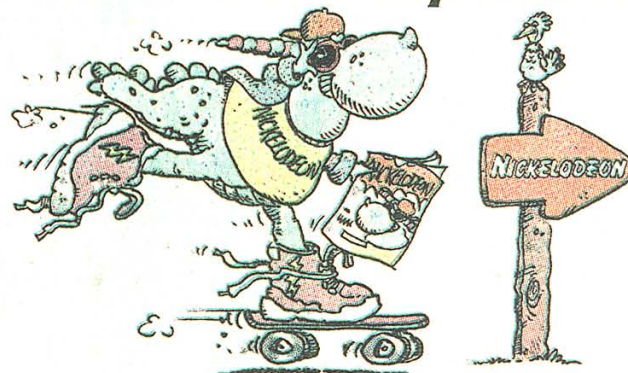
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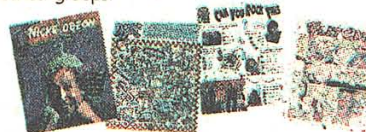
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MANHATTAN:
THE PENTHOUSE
HOME OF
NICHOLAS
POWELL.

HEADS!

HEADS IT IS,
MR. GROUPE.
YOU WIN!

I'LL LISTEN.
AND I'LL
GET TO
THE POINT,
POWELL!

I KNOW
YOU'RE
CHANCE,
A GUN-FOR-
HIRE WHO
DOESN'T
CHARGE FOR HIS
SERVICES--

-- BUT RATHER BETS
THEM AGAINST HIS
SUCCESS! I'VE GOT A
JOB FOR YOU: BACK-UP
IN THE TRASK
HIT!

MR. GROUPE,
YOU SEEM TO
BE LABORING
UNDER A
MISCONCEPTION.

NICK POWELL IS FIRST
STRING; I DON'T "BACK
UP" ANYTHING.

MY TAKE
WOULD BE
A MILLION
DOLLARS.
I'LL BET YOU
TEN PERCENT.

PERHAPS,
MR. GROUPE,
THE MISCON-
CEPTION WAS
MINE.

THAT'S
BETTER!

AH, MONEY.
SO
NECESSARY.
SO UN-
IMPORTANT.

A HUNDRED
THOUSAND?

FOR THE ONLY
THING THAT MAKES
LIFE *TRULY* WORTH-
WHILE IS THE GAMBLE!
THE GREATER THE
ODDS, THE SWEETER
THE TASTE!
WITHOUT RISK--

-- LIFE WOULD
HAVE NO VALUE
AT ALL!

AN INTERESTING PHILOSOPHY,
THOUGH ONE THAT MIGHT BE
HOTLY DEBATED--

-- BY A CERTAIN
NATHAN
LUBINSKY

WILL IT
HAPPEN
TONIGHT?
TOMORROW?

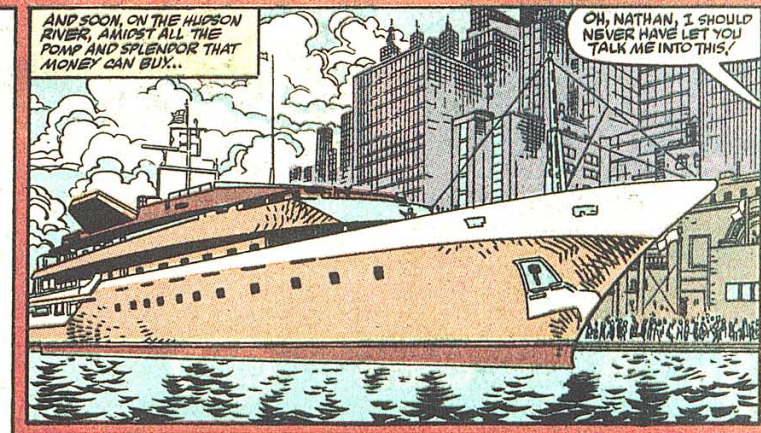
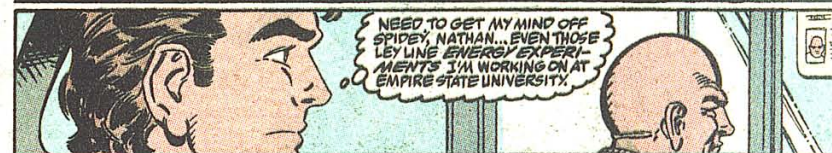
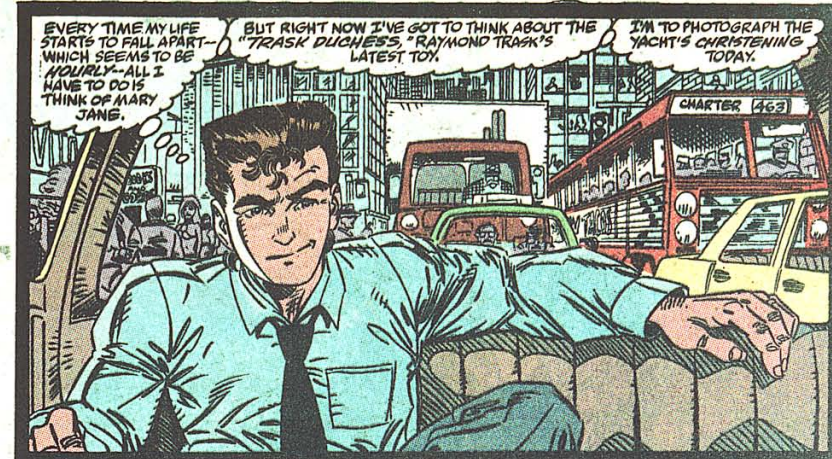
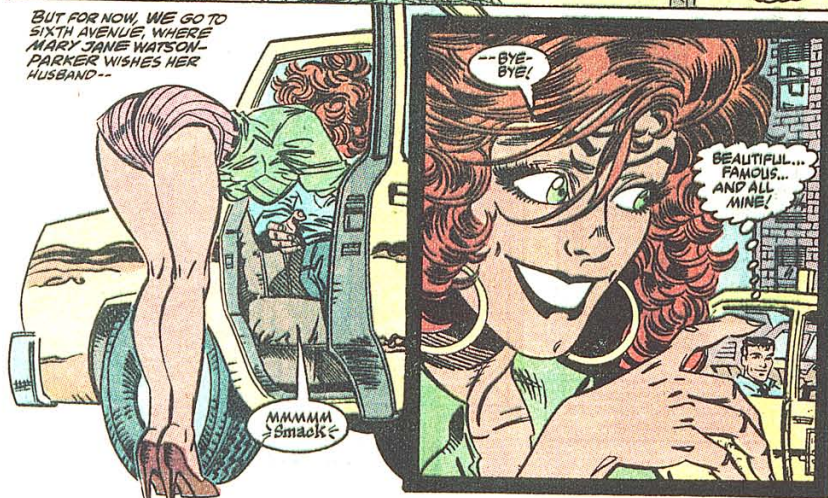
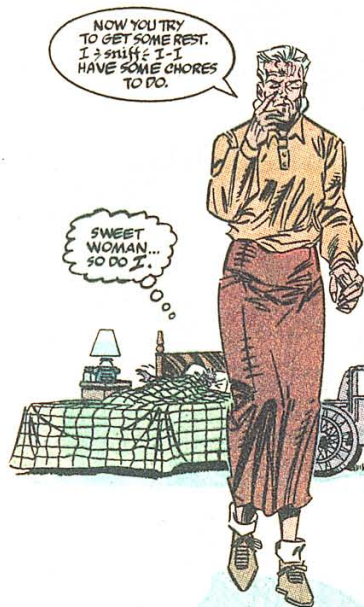
WILL
I LAST
ANOTHER
WEEK?

STOP THAT,
YOU OLD
WORRY-WORT!
JUST HUSH!

YOU'RE
GOING TO BE
WITH US A
LONG TIME!

A LONG... LONG... TIME.

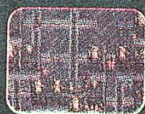
THE
WAITING.
IT'S THE
WAITING
I HATE.



UNCANNY ACTION.



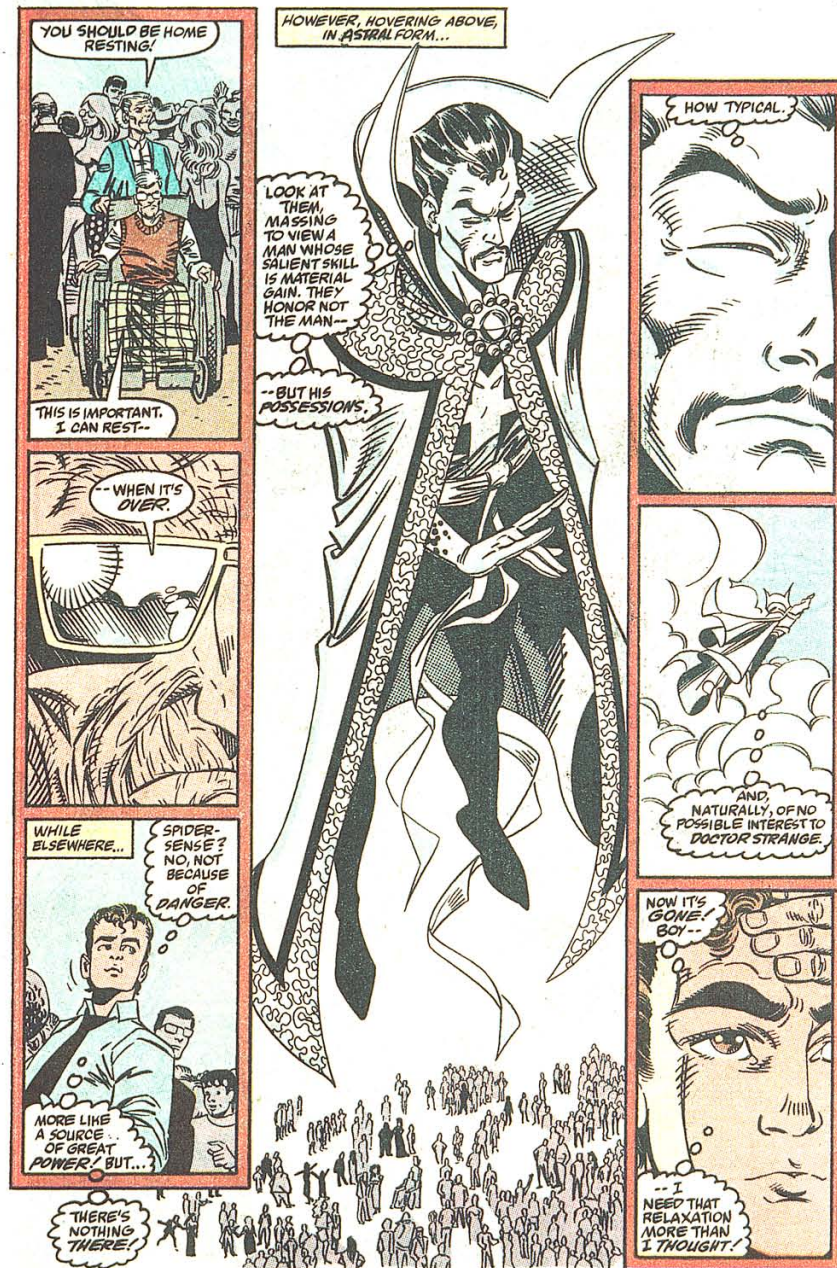
THE UNCANNY X-MEN

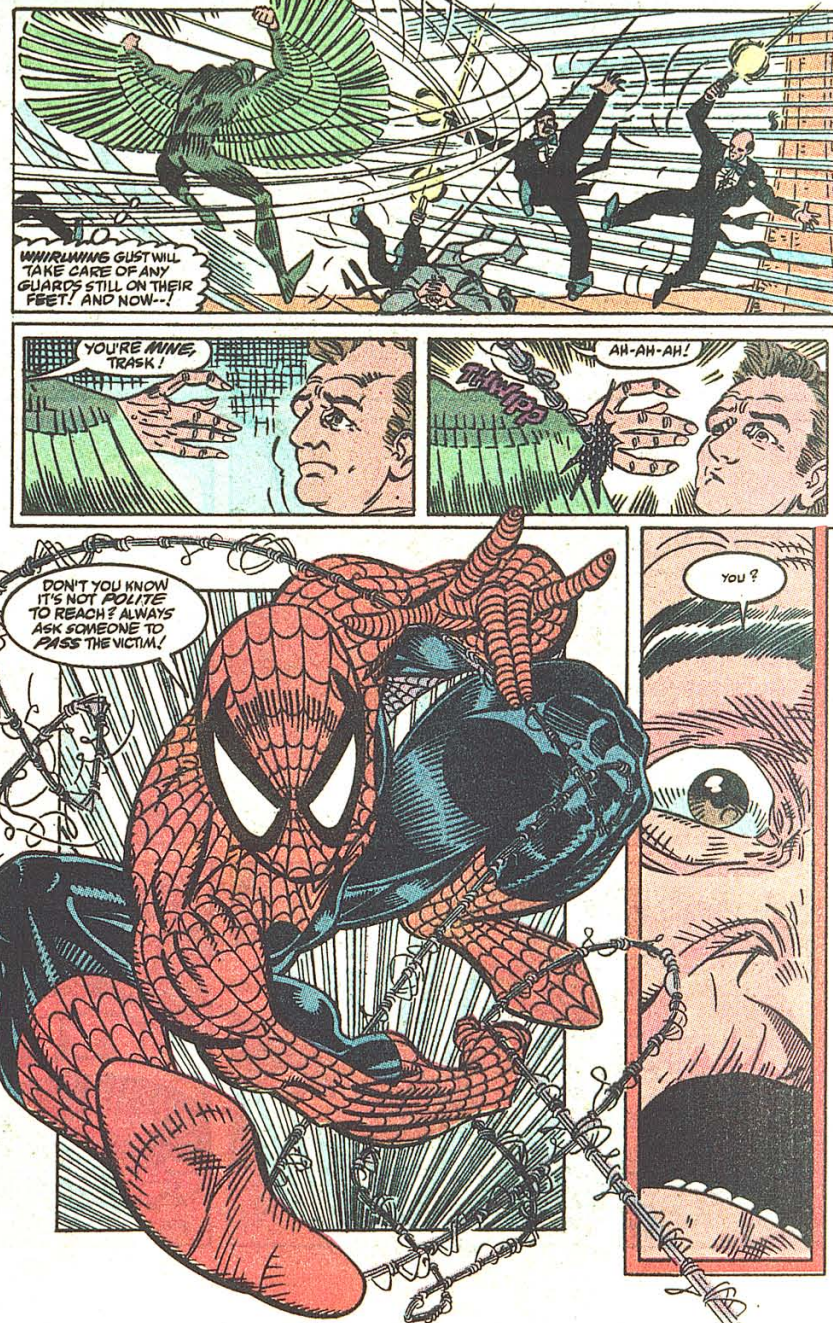
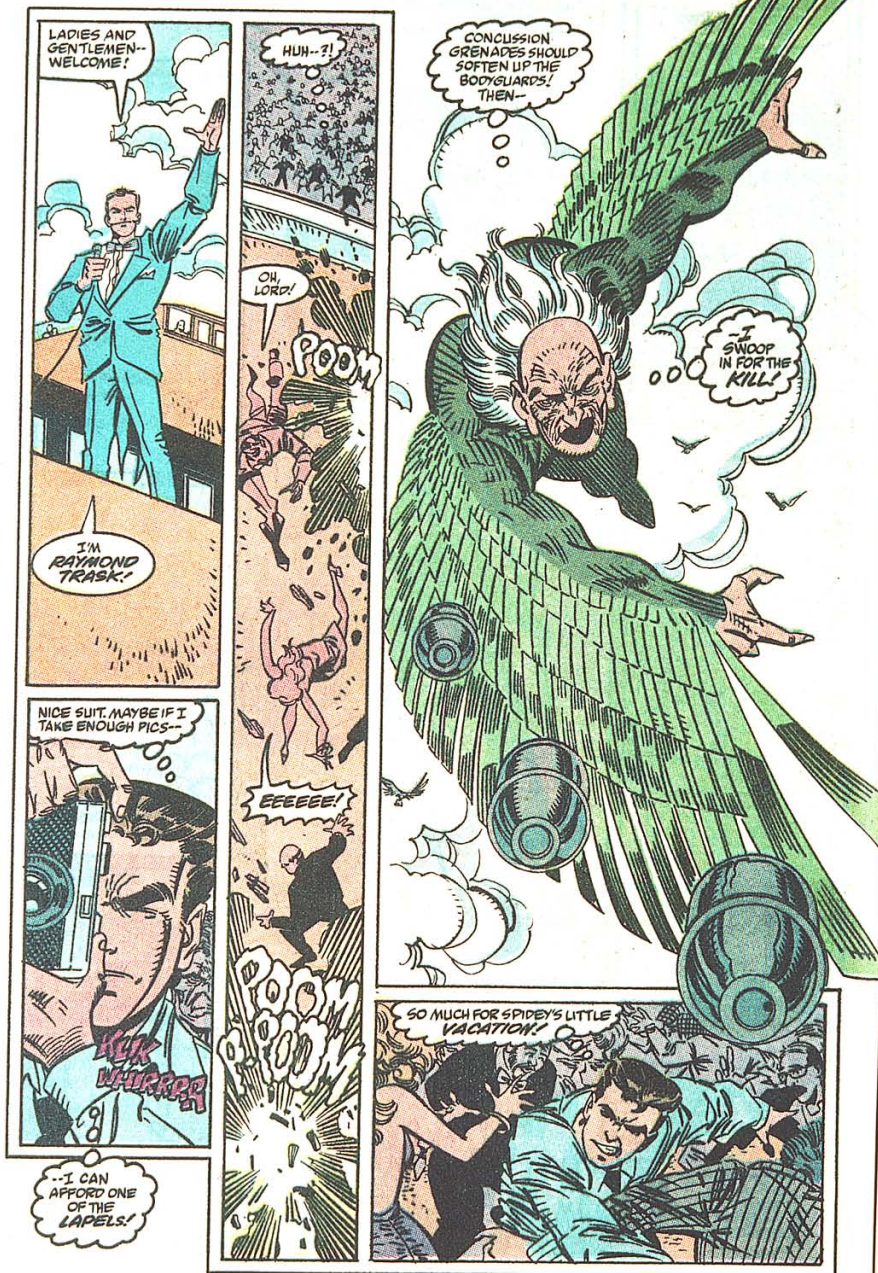


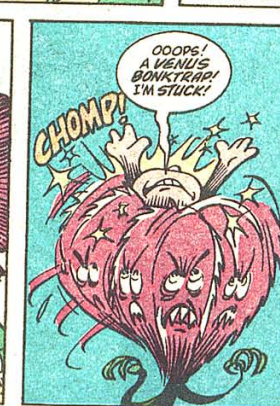
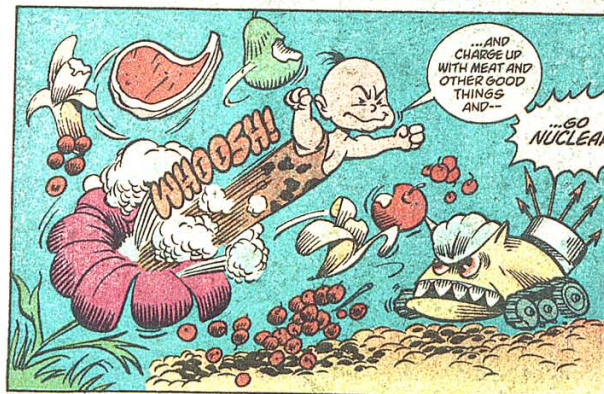
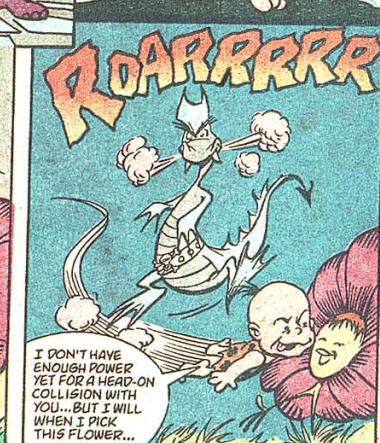
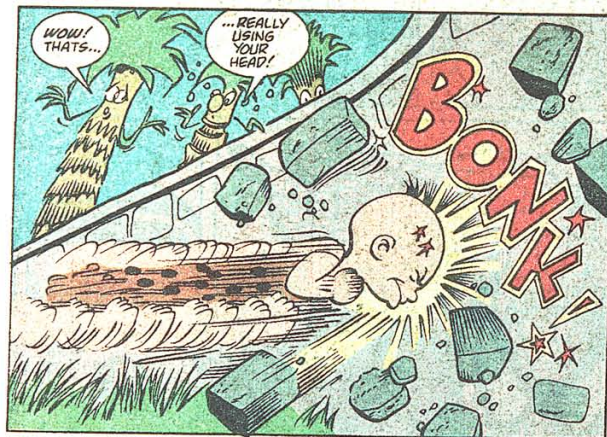
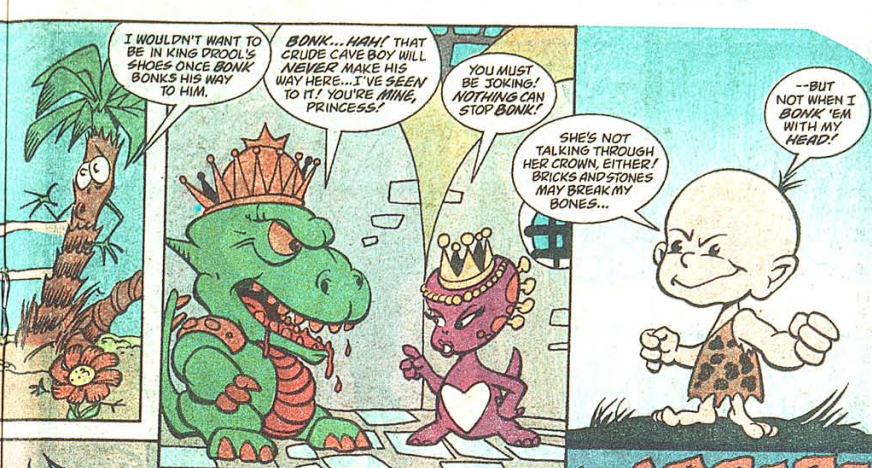
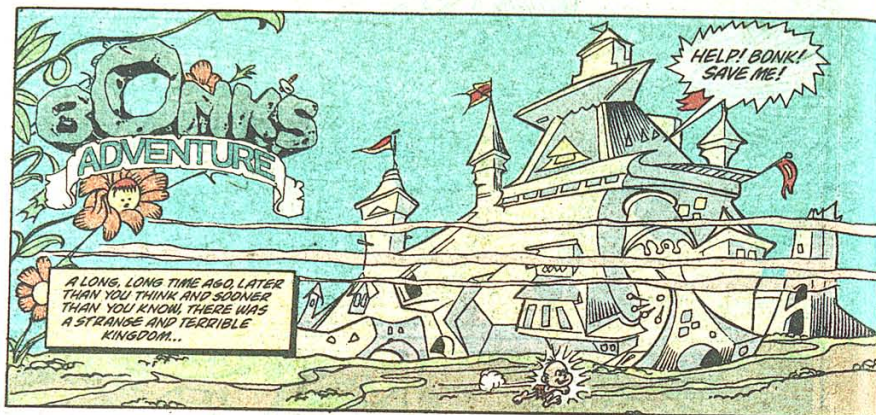
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FOR GAME BOY!
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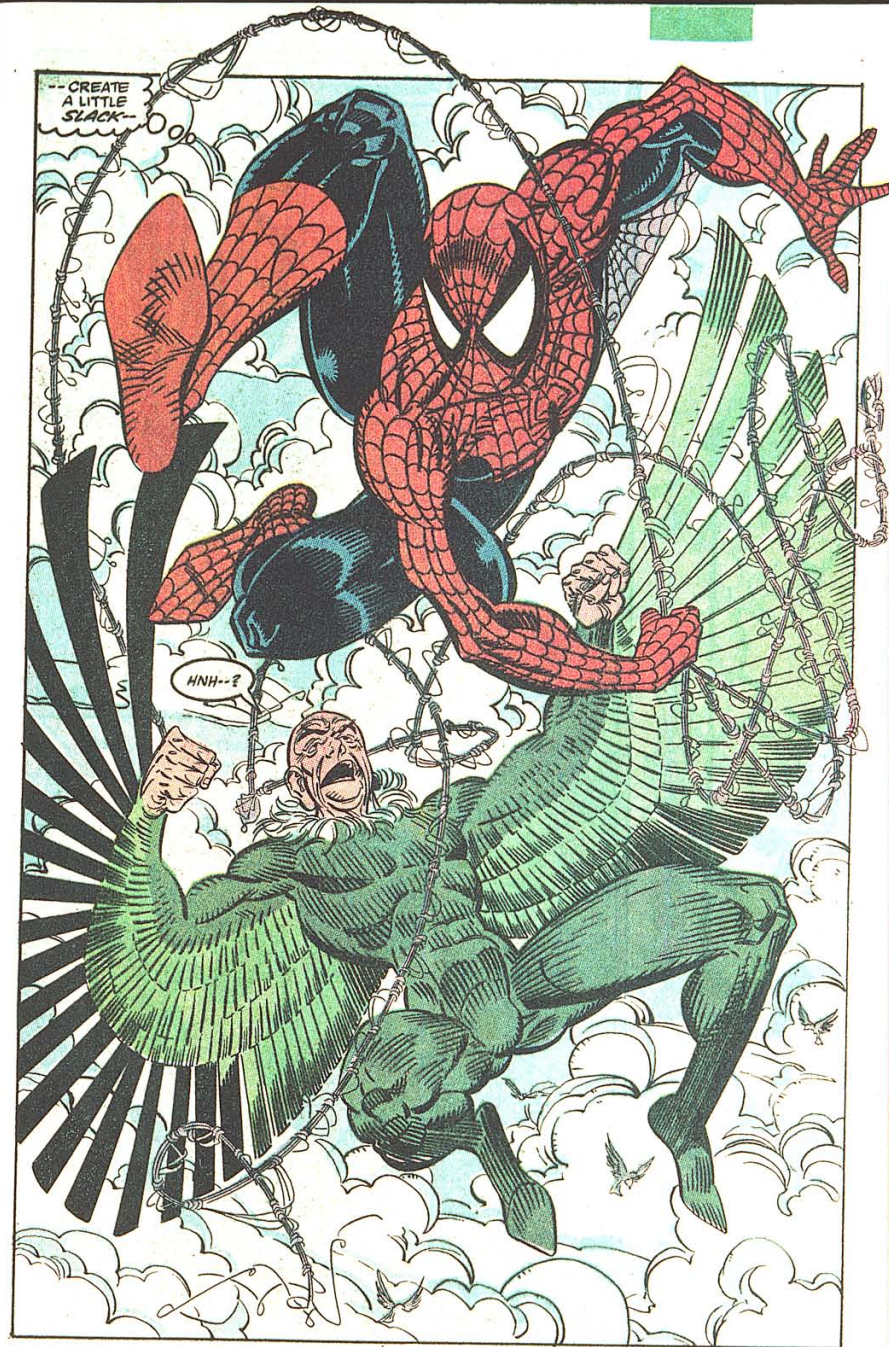




HEERE WE
GO AGAIN!
HE ALWAYS
TAKES OFF
WITH ME IN
TOW!

WHICH IS
WHY I KNOW
EXACTLY
WHAT TO
DO!

I JUST
YANK
MYSELF
UP ALONG
THE WEB-
LINE--



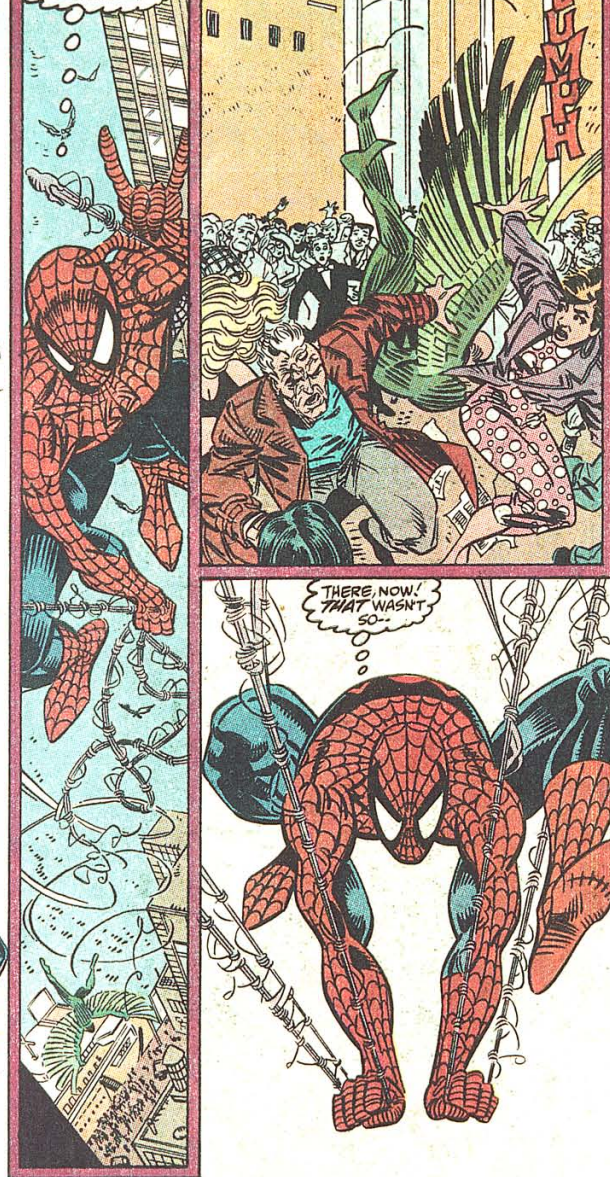
--CREATE
A LITTLE
SLACK--

HNH--?



THE MOMENTUM OF WHICH SHOULD BRING ON FEATHERFACE INTO CLOSE COMMUNION--

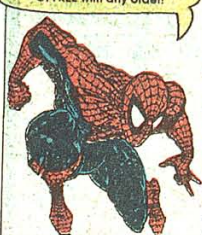
"-- WITH THE PAVEMENT!"



TANGEE

THERE, NOW, THAT WASN'T SO--

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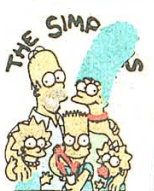
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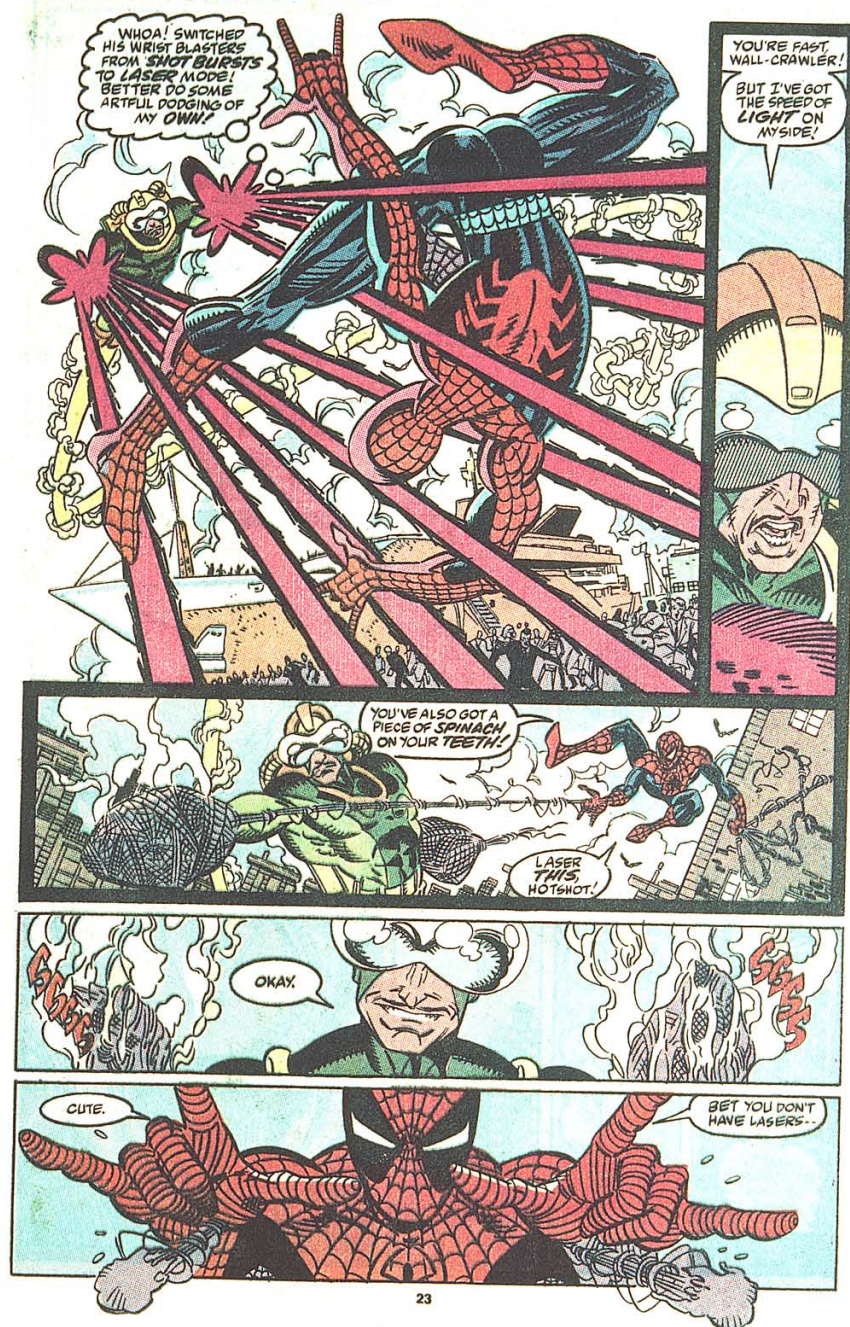
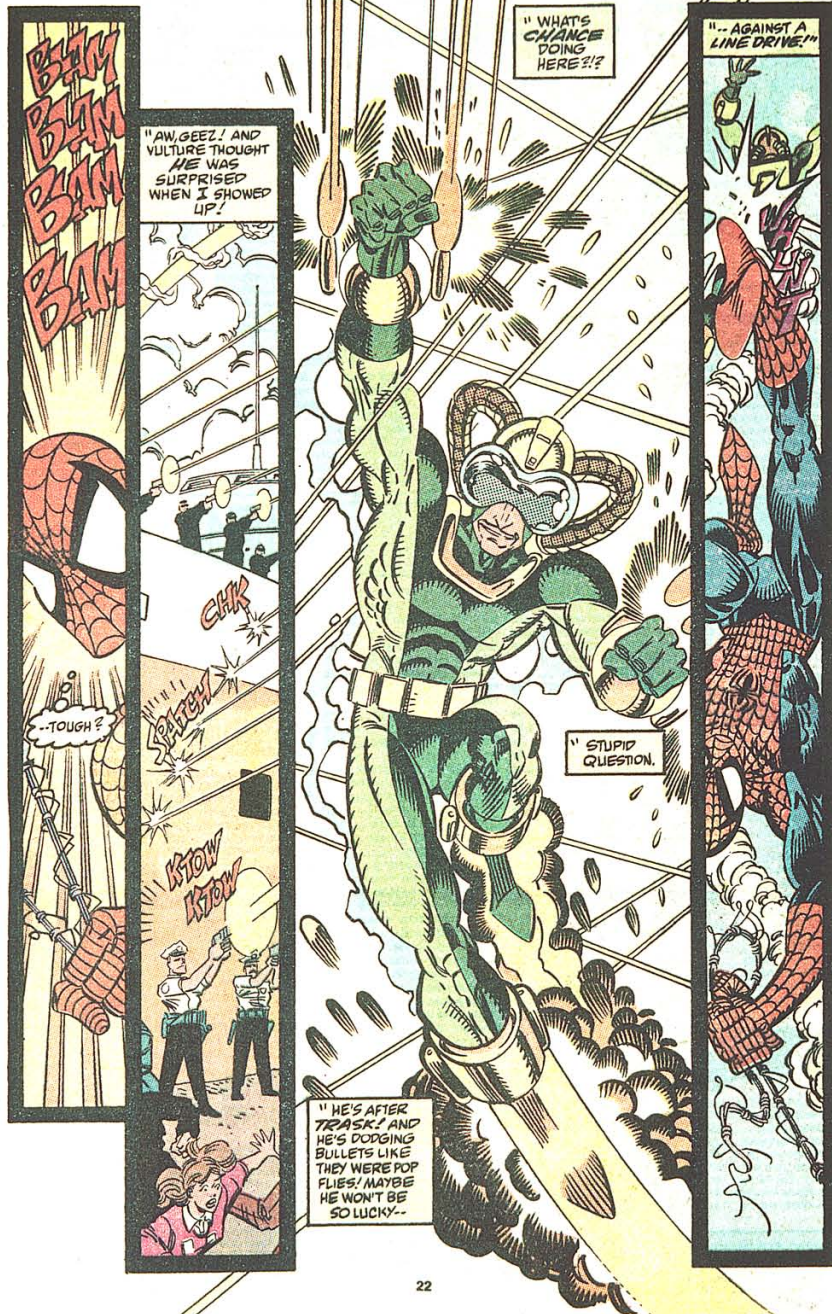
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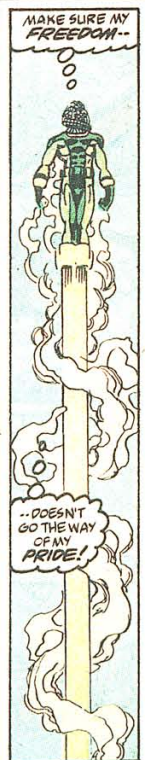
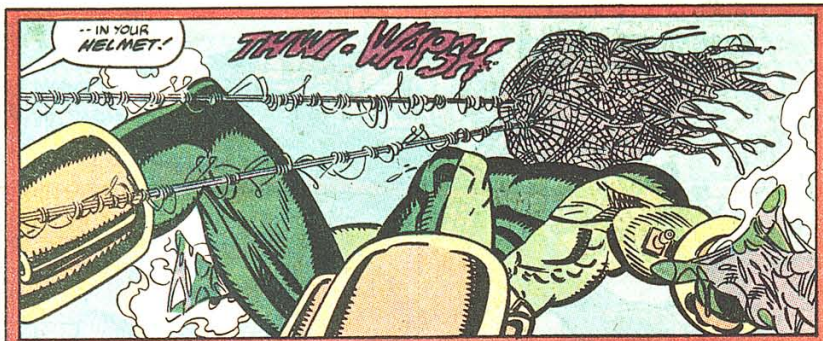
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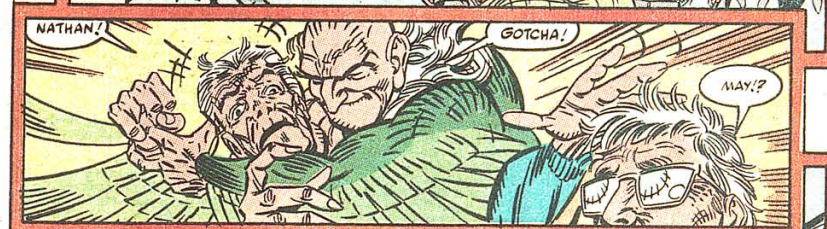
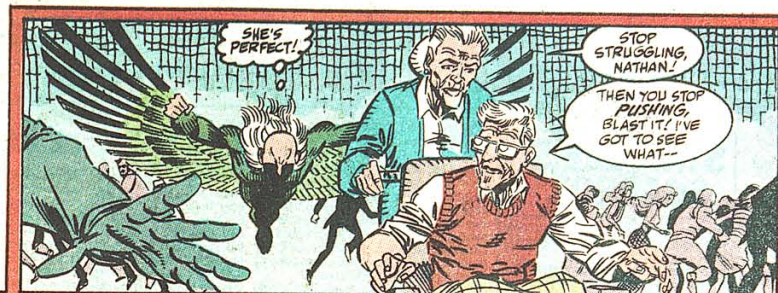
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MARVEL COMICS BULLPEN BULLETINS



STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes! Wanna know why comic book column writers get gray? Try this on for size—

A fewishes back I told you to watch for "Into Thin Air," the new Larry Cohen movie in which some of your favorite Bullpeners play cameo roles. So far so good, right? Uh uh! Larry just told me the title was changed to "Ambulance"! Naturally, by the time he told me, the Soapbox column touting the other title had already been printed!

Well, to avoid any future foul-ups, just watch for a new thriller which may or may not be called "Ambulance," featuring my co-star, Eric Roberts! ("Co-star"? Well, I share the screen with him for almost thirty whole seconds! And, in case you're wondering, yeah, he's pretty good, too!)

By the way, have you noticed the many new comic book titles and companies popping up? Recently, someone said he was sorry we're having all this competition. I told him to save his sympathy! I mean, competition is what it's all about! Nothing like the sound of another comics company breathing down our necks to make us work even harder! And who benefits by it all? Hey, who else but you, the readers; you, who keep us alive by shelling out your shekels for our mags! If we give you what you want, you'll buy us! If not, it's goodbye, Charlie! And that's the way it should be!

You've been wonderfully loyal to us over the years, and no words of mine can fully express our gratitude. That's why I make you this pledge—we'll never stop bustin' our chops to give you the best we've got, to prove worthy of your support, to excite you, to amuse you and, for better or worse, to always level with you! Fact is, there's no way we'll ever forget our earliest adage... "We're nothing without you!" Excelsior!

Stan

CHECKLIST

No checklist this month, Guys and Gals. If you want to find out what's on sale, check out last month's Bullpen Bulletins page. Meanwhile, here's some extra boxes you can practice checking off.

☒ GOOD
☒ BAD

☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐
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JUNE, as hyperprolific Marvel Executive Editor-slash-Wisconsinite Mark Gruenwald always fails to remind us, is National Dairy Month. You it's time once again for our first annual stroll around the Marvel neighborhood, to see how dairy products affect us in our everyday lives. Perhaps we should get ultranurse dresser Assistant Editor Barry Butter (or, Barry Butter) to accompany us on this little venture? Perhaps not.

The first stop on our sojourn is the local New York Smiler deli. We head toward the refrigerated dairy section in all its prepackaged splendor. We spy the milk cartons, and are reminded of the happy days of our youth, reading comics by the firelight while sipping Bosco and milk. Not everyone has had so fortunate a childhood, however, and Marvel has recently been trying to do something about it.

Marvel has joined forces with the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse and the K-Mart Corporation to produce a comic book featuring Spider-Man and Skids of the New Mutants, dealing with child abuse. The comic will be distributed through K-Mart, and given out free to any parent who asks for it.

The comic came out in April, which, as neo-father-slash-CHOST RIDER-writer Howard Mackie could tell us, is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Certainly preventing child abuse is a high priority for all of us, parents and non-parents alike. Another priority, of course, is reminding children and non-children alike that milk is good for strong teeth and bones. "One guy who draws excellent teeth and great bones is megastar Jim ('Don't call me happy') Lee. (No relation to Stan.) If Jim were a happy guy, he'd really have a reason to smile now, since he is now regular pencil of the X-MEN, beginning with issue #288.

Todd McFarlane, on the other hand, is always happy to smile for us. The incredibly popular squiggly-web-drawing Canadian is giving birth this month to a new book featuring the adjective-less Spider-Man. Todd is both writing and drawing this one, surely cause for a celebration. Tell Aunt May to stock up on extra milk and cookies!

Well, we've lingered over the dairy counter so long the shop owner is beginning to stare at us in a peculiar way. Let us move on. As we reach the check-out counter, we spot the latest issue of the much-informative, preprestigious SOAP OPERA WEEKLY magazine. We can't help but recall the April 10th issue of SOW, which featured an interview with the second lady of American theater, Elaine Lee. (No relation to Stan.) Elaine spoke of her erstwhile role on the more-than-a-soap-opera-more-like-a-dramatic-ongoing-story TV show, THE DOCTORS, and her work on the il-comics-could-sing-the-world-would-sing-with-them STEELTOWN ROCKERS. Although Elaine made no mention of dairy products in the interview, we have to wonder if the thought of them might have crossed her mind.

We are reminded of the Wall of Bovines in the office of Epic's own super hard-working assistant editor, Marie Javins. Marie has had some of the biggest names in the business contribute drawings of cows to her wall. Among them: Jim Lee,

Jay Muth, Mike Mignola, and Sergio Aragones. Now you see why it's called the Marvel Bullpen.

We exit the New York Smiler, and continue our stroll around the Marvel neighborhood. What's playing at the local theater? THE STORY OF CHEESE, perhaps? No, that was last week. This week, it's ROBBOCOP 2, co-scripted by the hyperhot, he-was-doin-ninjas-when-ninjas-weren't-cool Frank Miller. We are reminded of our comics adaptation of this ultrapopular film, which we might urge you to pick up, if you need your US FDA of lip-puckering, justice-dispensing cyborgs. And its by Alan Grant, Mark Bagley, and Tony DeZuniga—all firm believers in the separation of the four basic food groups.

Why, look! It's a record store! Wasn't there a mega-groovy group a few decades back known as the Cowsills? Why, sure, there was! Maybe we can score one of their old albums on compact disc. While our fingers browse almost of their own accord, we happen upon the brand-new CD by the not-quite-yet-but-son-to-be-superstars Otis Ball and the Chain. The album is called "I'm Gonna Love You 'Til I Don't," and it features back-up vocals on one song by the Buddha Singers. As fate would have it, three of the Buddha singers are Marvel's own—the tow-headed neo-Editor Mike Rockwitz, colorist-par-excel-lence Steve Buccellato, and our ever-smiling Direct Sales Manager Lou Bank. As Lou described it, "Otis serenaded us outside our window, and this inspired us to sing with him. It was one of the most sentimental moments of my life." Lou predicts that Otis Ball and the Chain will be "bigger than the sliced wheel."

Sliced wheel? A probable cheese reference. Further proof that dairy products have become part of the American culture. Why, someone would have to be a fool to not include dairy products as part of his/her everyday diet. Which reminds us, appropriately enough, that June is also the release of the first issue of the FOOL-KILLER Limited Series.

It's scripted by ultra eccentric Howard the Duck creator Steve Gerber, with art by the meta-talented newcomer to Marvel, JJ Birch. Steve created the Foolkiller character in the early seventies in an issue of his mucho-classic MAN-THING series. Now there's a whole new nutcase in the Foolkiller suit, and he's re-defining the meaning of the word "fool." We wonder if this might include those who won't drink their milk!

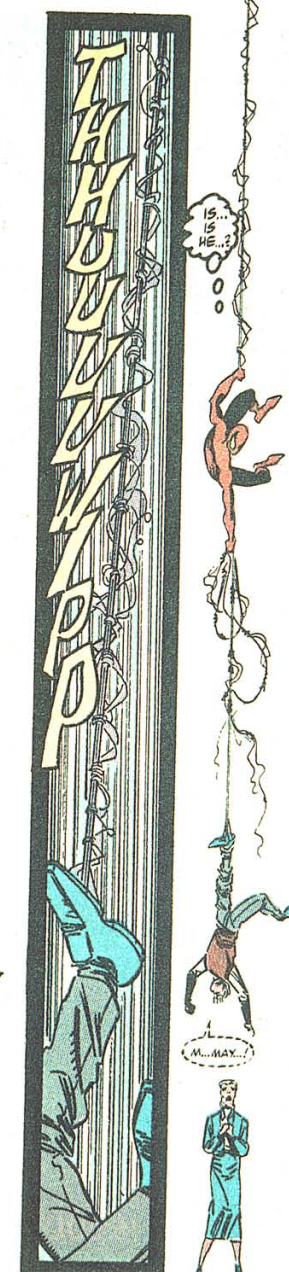
Well, it's getting late, and our trip 'round the neighborhood has come to an end. We're tired—but it's a good kind of tired. As we reflect back on our day, we can't help but realize what a large role such products as cheese, butter, and milk play in our lives. But some of us enjoy them perhaps a little too much. In a recent study, it was revealed that Wisconsin adults weighed in as the nation's most obese in a national survey—for the third consecutive year! The reason for their pleasant plumpness? Seems it's their high consumption of dairy products like cheese and butter. Perhaps there's a lesson to be learned here. (Say, isn't the pre-obese non-serial killer Mark Gruenwald from Wisconsin?) Gotta scoot!



...H...

...HE...

...HEART...





NEXT ISSUE: THE **SIX** ARE NOW ONE--AND MORE SINISTER THAN EVER! -- IN TWO WEEKS!

THE SPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

JIM SALICRUP
ARACHNERD
DAN CUDDY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

There were two major boo-boos in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #329 which a number of you clever people caught. The first error was scientific in nature...

Dear Marvel,

This is my first letter to you in over ten years of avid reading. I am presently a Naval Officer getting my Masters Degree in Space Systems Engineering and I tend to get a little bit of ribbing about reading "Funny Books". Well my defense has always been that "Comic Books" are well researched and one can learn something from any form of literature, even "Comic Books". The conviction in my voice is usually enough to convince them, but if they ever got a chance to read page 14 of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #329 then I would be at their mercy.

On this soon-to-be infamous page in the far left-hand panel, Spider-Man is seen plummeting toward the ground while Graviton looms overhead saying, "Heavy! That's because I've increased your gravity to what it would be at the Earth's Core."

AARGH! First of all, I'm sure you meant to say, "increased the gravitational field around you to what it would be at the Earth's Core." People do not have gravity. People have weight (or mass). Spider-Man's Gravity is what would cause things to be attracted to him if he were not so close to something of such a greater mass as to make his gravitational field seem negligible (I am speaking of the earth).

Second of all, the gravity at the Earth's core is zero. Spider-Man would not plummet. He would float. At the center of the Earth the gravitational field is canceled out because there is an equal amount of mass in any direction. If Spider-Man could have great weight at the Earth's core, in which direction would he fall?

If I remember right, I have a No-Prize coming. Say, how about making me Marvel's Science Editor?

Lt. John Riley
306 Dela Vina #4
Monterey, CA 93940

Sorry, John, but the position of Science Editor is already filled here by none other than Irving Forbush. All complaints should be addressed to him. Your No-Prize is on its way, unless it mysteriously lost its gravitational field and floated off into space.

The Spider's Web:

Peter Parker's complaint near the end of issue #329—"I should have done more"—reflected my own. When Spider-Man obtained his cosmic powers, I thought it would really be a great storyline building to an earth-shattering conclusion. Instead, the ending was a real letdown. It made me wonder if you guys knew where you were going to take this plot when you started it.

By the way, Graviton must be dumber than he looks. He says he increased Spider-Man's gravity to what it would be at the Earth's core. But Spider-Man's gravity at the Earth's core would be zero. At its core the Earth's mass in each direction is equal, so the gravitational pull in each direction is the same and cancels out. Where was the editor when you needed him?

Paul Thiel APM
2513 Woodhill Court, Apt. 5
Crescent Springs, KY 41017

All right, all right, already. Let's hear about our second faux pas, committed in the name of fashion...

Dear Jim,

I loved the whole storyline where Spidey got his new powers. It was one of the best I've ever read. Kudos to everyone involved! I loved it so much that I had to go back and read it again. In doing so, it blew me away again, but it also may have earned me the coveted Marvel No-Prize.

In issue #329, page 30, Peter is talking to MJ and he's still wearing his Spidey boots! Flash comes up the elevator with Felicia and sees Peter with Spidey's boots on! But never fear, I have the

answer. Since Spidey is such a popular merchandising character, Flash just assumed they were socks with the Spidey costume printing on them.

So until Spidey gets a purple polka-dot costume, Make Mine Marvel!

Dan Souder
7542 Canterbury Ct., Apt. C
Florence, KY 41042

You betcha, Dan! In fact, Flash is such a big Spidey fan that he probably has a dozen or so Spidey socks himself, so he saw nothing wrong.

Dear SPIDER'S WEB,

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #329.

My feelings are mixed on this issue. The story was pretty good. And the art wasn't bad. Eric does tend to draw Spider-Man's head too large, but the rest of the art is fine. As for the story, it was well written, but also somewhat disappointing. After waiting three months for the culmination of the climax to the Captain Universe saga, I was expecting more than just the threat of the Tri-Sentinel demolishing a nuclear power plant.

The Captain Universe power is supposed to be used for near cosmic catastrophes. Now don't get me wrong, a nuclear power plant being destroyed would obviously be a threat to the inhabitants of the New York area and thousands, possibly millions, could die. But I was expecting something that would possibly have more far-reaching consequences.

The last page of the story was definitely interesting. Both Peter and Mary Jane know who Felicia is and are definitely wondering what her game is. I am also. I'm really curious as to whether she is trying to get back into Peter's life, or if she is just trying to make him miserable.

Shane Hutchison
P.O. Box 580483
Nassau Bay, TX 77258

Sorry to disappoint you, Shane. But maybe it wasn't just the Tri-Sentinel that posed such a threat to society. Maybe it was the entire Acts of Vengeance as a whole, as our following letter-writer seems to think...

Dear Marvel,

In issue #329, Spider-Man becomes aware that the Enigma Force chose him to fight the Tri-Sentinel and save New York from a nuclear disaster. Why did the Enigma Force give Spidey the power days or weeks early? Not to let him get used to it, because if he got all the power as planned, he would have known what his powers were.

Also, if Spider-Man had not had the power, Acts of Vengeance may not have failed, so the robot would never have been made.

My answer is that the real danger to mankind was Acts of Vengeance, but by the time Spider-Man "remembered" this, the Enigma Force was only interested in the Tri-Sentinel, so it ignored the past danger.

I loved the art in this issue, and it's good to have Spidey (and Felicia Hardy) back. Until the Red Skull gets a face lift...

D. Hore
Unit 5
137 Elouera Road Cronalla
Sydney, Australia 2230

Sounds good to us, D. But remember, the Enigma Force was warped by Dr. Lubisch's experiment. There's no telling when the Enigma Force planned to bestow the Uni-power upon the web-slinger—the experiment could have muddled its time-sense.

IN TWO WEEKS: Doc Ock recruits the last of his Sinister Six. But what are his plans once the team is reunited? Meanwhile, don't forget to check out Spidey's Totally Tiny Adventure running throughout all this summer's SPIDER-MAN ANNUALS on sale this month!

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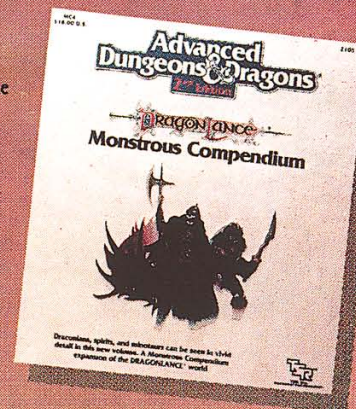
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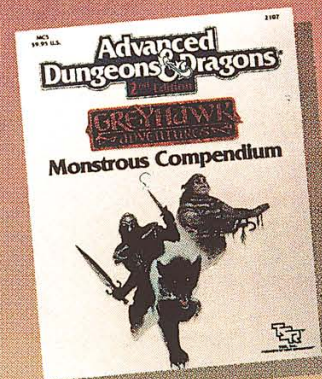
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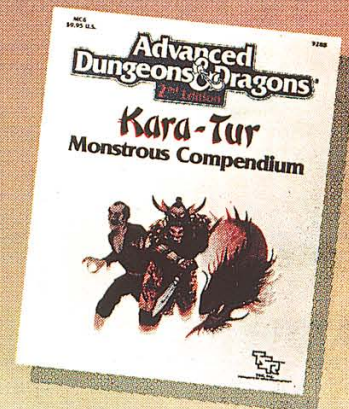


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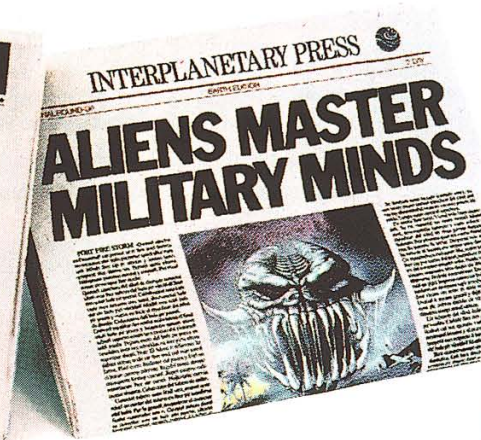
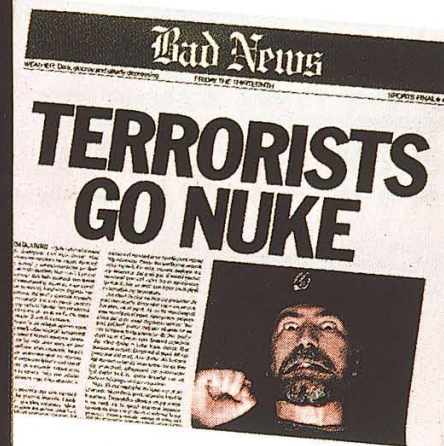


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